

Message Text

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63

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 PM-07 SCI-06 COME-00 DODE-00

NSF-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /048 W

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P 072021Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2670

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 1216

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TBIO VE

SUBJECT: R/V WESTWARD

REF: STATE 23999

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED TO INQUIRE RE POSSIBILITY OF WESTWARD ENTERING PORT OF LA GUAIRA TO PICK UP VENEZUELAN SCIENTIST, WHERE NAVY WOULD GIVE ALL REQUIRED ASSISTANCE AND MAKE NAVY PIER AVAILABLE. IF UNABLE, SUGGEST SHIP GO TOWARDS ANTENNAS OR LIGHT BEACON ON DOS MOSQUES ISLAND OF ROQUES GROUP, WHICH HAS SCIENTIFIC STATION. NAVY DOES NOT WISH SHIP TO ANCHOR OFF GRAN ROQUE, GIVING REASON THAT SHIP WOULD BE DISTURBED BY BOATS, CHILDREN, TOURISTS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTED TO EMBASSY IN CONFIDENCE THAT UNIDENTIFIED GOV OFFICIALS ARE ANNOYED AT REQUEST THAT VENEZUELAN SCIENTISTS ARE ASKED TO TRAVEL TO PUERTO RICO OR CURACAO OR LOS ROQUES TO BOARD VESSEL. THEY CONSIDER THAT COMMON COURTESY DICTATES THAT US RESEARCH SHIPS OPERATING IN VENEZUELAN WATERS SHOULD TOUCH VENEZUELAN PORTS TO PICK UP SCIENTISTS. EMBASSY REPLIED THAT THESE OFFICIALS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THESE TRIPS NORMALLY ARE NOT FUNDED OR CONTROLLED BY US GOVERNMENT BUT BY PRIVATE RESEARCH INSTITUTES; THAT VENEZUELAN SCIENTISTS OBTAIN FREE RESEARCH, FREE TRIPS AND FREE LODGING ON BOARD; AND THAT EXTRA TRAVEL AND BERTHING CHARGES MIGHT EXCEED TRIP BUDGET. FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLIED THAT IS AWARE OF ABOVE ARGUMENTS AND THAT MINISTRY HAD

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ATTEMPTED TO COUNTER COMPLAINTS OF THIS NATURE BUT THAT COMPLAINANTS

SIMPLY COUNTERED THAT IN FUTURE UNLESS VENEZUELAN SCIENTISTS ARE PICKED UP IN VENEZUELAN PORT, ANY FURTHER CLEARANCES WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING.

3. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THIS ISSUE BE DISCUSSED WITH MARIANO TIRADO, CHIEF, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH OFFICE HANDLES RESEARCH SHIP CLEARANCES. TIRADO IS PRESENTLY IN WASHINGTON ATTENDING INTEISAT MEETING AND CAN BE REACHED THROUGH VENEZUELAN EMBASSY.

4. EMBASSY FEARS THAT AT LEAST DURING PRESENT GOVERNMENT (WHICH LEAVES OFFICE NEXT MARCH 12) THERE MAY BE MOUNTING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING CLEARANCES FOR RESEARCH SHIPS.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

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